

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

and the

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'RIO' BEARDLESS WILDRYE**

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and the California Agricultural Experiment Station announce the naming and release of 'Rio' beardless wildrye, Levmus triticoides Buckley. It was developed by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, and released in cooperation with the California Agricultural Experiment Station, University of California, Davis, California.

'Rio' beardless wildrye was collected from a native stand in Stratford, Kings County, California, by Soil Conservation Service personnel on September 12, 1973. Seed and rhizomes were harvested from test plots at the Lockeford Plant Materials Center, San Joaquin County, California and used for testing throughout the Mediterranean climate in California. It demonstrated superior seed viability and initial sod establishment in comparison with about 12 other California native collections.

'Rio' is a native, cool-season, perennial grass with a moderate amount of seed heads and vigorous rhizomes. Plants are up to 100 cm (40 inches) tall, spikes are 8 to 20 cm (3-8 inches) long and have numerous, dark, green leaves. Lemmas are acute or awn-tipped.

'Rio' was developed for use as a soil stabilization plant on channel, stream and river slopes. It can tolerate up to 30 cm (12 inches) of sediment. It also has proven to be a valuable plant for roadside restoration, riparian restoration along stream channels and flood plains and for range revegetation. It is primarily adapted to the Mediterranean climate of California including MLRAs 4, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20. It prefers the heavier soils, but has performed well on sandy loams and loam soils, also. It can be established by seed, sod or rhizomes.

'Rio' was selected for it's superior seed viability with seed production averaging about 300 pounds per acre. Seed yield has increased with the use of the flail-vac harvester. Seed matures in June-July with little, preharvest seed shattering. There are about 385,000 seeds per kilogram (175,000 seeds per pound).

Four classes of seed (Breeder, Foundation, Registered and Certified) of 'Rio' beardless wildrye are recognized. Breeder seed will be maintained by the Lockeford Plant Materials Center, Lockeford, California. Foundation seed will be maintained by the Lockeford Plant Materials Center, Lockeford, California and made available through the Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Service, University of California, Davis, California.

Samuel L. Harnell  
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9-20-91  
Date

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CALIFORNIA STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
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10/4/91  
Date

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10-22-91  
Date